

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RAUL ARELLANO,
CDCR #g-57782,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SEDIGHI; R. WALKER; S. ROBERTS; J.
LEWIS; M. GLYNN; A. BUSALACCHI

Defendants.

Case No.: 3:15-cv-02059-AJB (BGS)

ORDER:

**(1) DISMISSING DEFENDANTS
FOR FAILING TO STATE A CLAIM
AND FOR SEEKING MONEY
DAMAGES AGAINST IMMUNE
DEFENDANTS;**

AND

**(2) DIRECTING U.S. MARSHAL TO
EFFECT SERVICE OF SECOND
AMENDED COMPLAINT UPON
DEFENDANTS PURSUANT TO Fed.
R. Civ. P. 4(c)(3) AND
28 U.S.C. § 1915(d)**

I. Procedural History

On September 15, 2015, Raul Arellano (“Plaintiff”), currently incarcerated at Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility (“RJD”) in San Diego, California, and proceeding pro se, filed a civil rights complaint (“Compl.”) pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 (Doc. No. 1). On February 1, 2016, this Court granted Plaintiff’s Motion to Proceed *In*

1 *Forma Pauperis* (“IFP”) pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a) but sua sponte dismissed his
 2 Complaint for failing to state a claim upon which relief could be granted. (Doc. No. 3.)
 3 After receiving an extension of time, Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint (“FAC”).
 4 (Doc. No. 7.) The Court, once again, conducted the required screening and dismissed
 5 Plaintiff’s FAC for failing to state a claim upon which relief could be granted. On
 6 October 25, 2016, Plaintiff filed his Second Amended Complaint (“SAC”). (Doc. No.
 7 10.)

8 **II. Screening Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2) & 1915A(b)**

9 **A. Standard of Review**

10 The Prison Litigation Reform Act (“PLRA”) requires the Court to review
 11 complaints filed by all persons proceeding IFP and by those, like Plaintiff, who are
 12 “incarcerated or detained in any facility [and] accused of, sentenced for, or adjudicated
 13 delinquent for, violations of criminal law or the terms or conditions of parole, probation,
 14 pretrial release, or diversionary program,” “as soon as practicable after docketing.” *See*
 15 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2) and 1915A(b). Under these statutes, the Court must sua sponte
 16 dismiss complaints, or any portions thereof, which are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a
 17 claim, or which seek damages from defendants who are immune. *See* 28 U.S.C.
 18 §§ 1915(e)(2)(B) and 1915A; *Lopez v. Smith*, 203 F.3d 1122, 1126-27 (9th Cir. 2000) (en
 19 banc) (§ 1915(e)(2)); *Rhodes v. Robinson*, 621 F.3d 1002, 1004 (9th Cir. 2010)
 20 (discussing 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)).

21 All complaints must contain “a short and plain statement of the claim showing that
 22 the pleader is entitled to relief.” FED. R. CIV. P. 8(a)(2). Detailed factual allegations are
 23 not required, but “[t]hreadbare recitals of the elements of a cause of action, supported by
 24 mere conclusory statements, do not suffice.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009)
 25 (citing *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007)). “Determining
 26 whether a complaint states a plausible claim for relief [is] . . . a context-specific task that
 27 requires the reviewing court to draw on its judicial experience and common sense.” *Id.*
 28 The “mere possibility of misconduct” falls short of meeting this plausibility standard.

1 *Id.*; see also *Moss v. U.S. Secret Service*, 572 F.3d 962, 969 (9th Cir. 2009).

2 “When there are well-pleaded factual allegations, a court should assume their
3 veracity, and then determine whether they plausibly give rise to an entitlement to relief.”
4 *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 679; *Resnick v. Hayes*, 213 F.3d 443, 447 (9th Cir. 2000) (“[W]hen
5 determining whether a complaint states a claim, a court must accept as true all allegations
6 of material fact and must construe those facts in the light most favorable to the
7 plaintiff.”); *Barren v. Harrington*, 152 F.3d 1193, 1194 (9th Cir. 1998) (noting that
8 § 1915(e)(2) “parallels the language of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6)”). In
9 addition, the court “ha[s] an obligation where the petitioner is pro se, particularly in civil
10 rights cases, to construe the pleadings liberally and to afford the petitioner the benefit of
11 any doubt.” *Hebbe v. Pliler*, 627 F.3d 338, 342 & n.7 (9th Cir. 2010) (citing *Bretz v.*
12 *Kelman*, 773 F.2d 1026, 1027 n.1 (9th Cir. 1985)).

13 B. Dismissed Defendants

14 When the Court dismissed Plaintiff’s FAC, he was informed that any “Defendants
15 not named and any claims not re-alleged in the Amended Complaint will be considered
16 waived.” See Aug. 19, 2016 Order, Doc. No. 8 at 8-9, citing *Hal Roach Studios, Inc., v.*
17 *Richard Feiner & Co., Inc.*, 896 F.2d 1542, 1546 (9th Cir. 1989). In his SAC, Plaintiff no
18 longer names Daniel Paramo and therefore, this Defendant is DISMISSED from this
19 action.

20 While Plaintiff names the “California Correctional Health Care Services” as a
21 Defendant, he fails to allege any facts specific to what this Defendant is alleged to have
22 done. Regardless, Plaintiff cannot bring an action for money damages against this
23 Defendant and the claims as to this Defendant must be dismissed sua sponte pursuant to
24 both 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2) and § 1915A(b) for failing to state a claim and for seeking
25 damages against a defendant who is immune. The State of California’s Department of
26 Corrections and Rehabilitation and any state prison, correctional agency, sub-division, or
27 department under its jurisdiction, are not “persons” subject to suit under § 1983. *Hale v.*
28 *State of Arizona*, 993 F.2d 1387, 1398-99 (9th Cir. 1993) (holding that a state department

1 of corrections is an arm of the state, and thus, not a “person” within the meaning of
 2 § 1983). And if by naming an agency within the CDCR as a party, Plaintiff really seeks
 3 to sue the State of California itself, his claims are clearly barred by the Eleventh
 4 Amendment. *See Alabama v. Pugh*, 438 U.S. 781, 782 (1978) (per curiam) (“There can
 5 be no doubt . . . that [a] suit against the State and its Board of Corrections is barred by the
 6 Eleventh Amendment, unless [the State] has consented to the filing of such a suit.”).

7 Therefore, to the extent Plaintiff seeks monetary damages against the California
 8 Correctional Health Care Services Company, this Defendant is dismissed pursuant to 28
 9 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii), (iii) and 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)(1) & (2).

10 C. Remaining Defendants

11 Based on the allegations contained in Plaintiff’s SAC, the Court now finds
 12 Plaintiff’s SAC is sufficient to survive the “low threshold” for proceeding past the sua
 13 sponte screening required by 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2) and 1915A(b) as to the remaining
 14 Defendants. *Wilhelm v. Rotman*, 680 F.3d 1113, 1123 (9th Cir. 2012).¹

15 Accordingly, the Court will direct U.S. Marshal service on Plaintiff’s behalf. *See*
 16 28 U.S.C. § 1915(d) (“The officers of the court shall issue and serve all process, and
 17 perform all duties in [IFP] cases.”); FED. R. CIV. P. 4(c)(3) (“[T]he court may order that
 18 service be made by a United States marshal or deputy marshal . . . if the plaintiff is
 19 authorized to proceed *in forma pauperis* under 28 U.S.C. § 1915.”).

20 **III. Conclusion and Order**

21 Good cause appearing, the Court:

22 1. **DISMISSES** Defendants Paramo and California Correctional Health Care
 23 Services Company for failing to state a claim and for seeking monetary damages against
 24 an immune defendant pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii), (iii) and 28 U.S.C.

26 ¹ Plaintiff is cautioned that “the sua sponte screening and dismissal procedure is
 27 cumulative of, and not a substitute for, any subsequent Rule 12(b)(6) motion that [a
 28 defendant] may choose to bring.” *Teahan v. Wilhelm*, 481 F. Supp. 2d 1115, 1119 (S.D.
 Cal. 2007).

1 § 1915A(b)(1) & (2).

2 2. **DIRECTS** the Clerk of Court to issue a summons as to Plaintiff's Second
3 Amended Complaint (Doc. No. 10) upon Defendants and forward it to Plaintiff along
4 with a blank U.S. Marshal Form 285 for each of these Defendants. In addition, the Court
5 **DIRECTS** the Clerk to provide Plaintiff with a certified copy of this Court's February 1,
6 2016 Order Granting Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to Proceed IFP (Doc. No. 3), a certified
7 copy of his Second Amended Complaint (Doc. No. 10), and the summons so that he may
8 serve Defendants. Once he receives this "IFP Package," the Court **ORDERS** Plaintiff to
9 complete the USM Form 285s as completely and accurately as possible, and to return
10 them to the United States Marshal according to the instructions provided by the Clerk in
11 the letter accompanying his IFP package.

12 3. **ORDERS** the U.S. Marshal, upon receipt of Plaintiff's completed USM
13 Form 285s, to timely serve a copy of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint and summons
14 upon each Defendant as directed by Plaintiff. All costs of that service will be advanced
15 by the United States. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(d); FED. R. CIV. P. 4(c)(3).

16 4. **ORDERS** Defendants, once they have been served, to reply to Plaintiff's
17 Second Amended Complaint within the time provided by the applicable provisions of
18 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(a). *See* 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(g)(2) (while a defendant
19 may occasionally be permitted to "waive the right to reply to any action brought by a
20 prisoner confined in any jail, prison, or other correctional facility under section 1983,"
21 once the Court has conducted its sua sponte screening pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)
22 and § 1915A(b), and thus, has made a preliminary determination based on the face on the
23 pleading alone that Plaintiff has a "reasonable opportunity to prevail on the merits," the
24 defendant is required to respond).

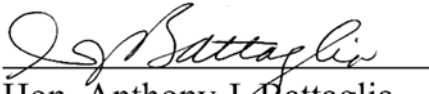
25 5. **ORDERS** Plaintiff, after service has been effected by the U.S. Marshal, to
26 serve upon Defendants or, if appearance has been entered by counsel, upon Defendants'
27 counsel, a copy of every further pleading, motion, or other document submitted for the
28 Court's consideration. Plaintiff must include with every original document he seeks to file

1 with the Clerk of the Court, a certificate stating the manner in which a true and correct
2 copy of that document has been served on Defendants, or counsel for Defendants, and
3 the date of that service.

4 Any document received by the Court which has not been properly filed with the Clerk
5 or which fails to include a Certificate of Service upon the Defendants may be disregarded.

6 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

7 Dated: February 3, 2017

8 
9 Hon. Anthony J. Battaglia
United States District Judge